

NNO Meeting – Friday 19 October 2007

Agenda Item 6 – Reports from Member Organisations



The ANMC has had a very busy six months, with new projects commencing, and the completion of other projects. This report provides a summary of key activities. More information is available on the ANMC website at www.anmc.org.au

PROJECTS

Research project to review the Code of Ethics for Nurses in Australia (2002); Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses in Australia (2003); Code of Ethics for Midwives; and develop a Code of Professional Conduct for Midwives in Australia.

Phase two of the Codes project is progressing well under the direction of Ms Amanda Adrian. Recently, two focus groups were held in Sydney and Melbourne for Nurses (morning session) and Midwives (afternoon session) to examine ways of harmonizing the documents and to consider various issues raised from the draft Codes submitted by the consultants from James Cook University and Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (University) earlier this year. Both of these were very successful in terms of gathering additional data to add to the final submissions received by the ANMC from online responses which closed at the end of July 2007. The first progress report on the last phase of the project is due at the end of August with the final Codes documents being presented to the Project Management Committee in late December.

The Development of ANMC National Guidelines on Boundaries of Professional Practice for Nurses and Midwives

This project is being conducted by the ANMC in partnership with the Nursing Council of New Zealand. Professional forums and consumer focus groups have been held throughout Australia during June with the final forum and focus group being held in New Zealand during early August. All data is now with the consultant for this project, Professor McMillan from the University of Newcastle for analysis. The literature review, stories and a submission form will shortly be posted on the ANMC website to invite nurses and midwives to send in further stories which demonstrate boundary crossing issues. These stories will further assist Professor McMillan with the development of the new National Guidelines.

National Framework for the Development of Decision Making Tools for Nursing and Midwifery Practice (National DMF)

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) has recently completed the project to **Develop a National Framework for the Development of Decision Making Tools for Nursing and Midwifery Practice (National DMF)**. In undertaking this work, the ANMC collaborated with State and Territory Nursing and Midwifery Regulatory Authorities, the National Nursing and Nurse Education Taskforce (until June 2006 when the Taskforce was disbanded), the Australian and New Zealand Council of Chief Nurses, the Deans of Nursing and Midwifery, the Australian Nursing Federation, the Australian College of Midwives Inc, Royal College of Nursing, Australia and the National Enrolled Nurses Association.

Building on work in Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia, as well as internationally, the National DMF has also been developed in broad consultation with nurses and midwives nationally. The ANMC would like to thank the many hundreds of nurses and midwives nationally who freely gave their time and expertise during the consultation process. It is anticipated that those states with existing DMFs will gradually replace these with the national document when state DMFs are due for review. ANMC looks forward to working with the NT, ACT and NSW to assist them to introduce the national DMF.

The Decision Making Framework and associated diagrams can be downloaded from the ANMC website

Project to develop standards and criteria for the accreditation of nursing and midwifery courses leading to registration, enrolment, endorsement and authorisation in Australia

In February 2007, the Council signed off on a *National Framework for the Accreditation of Nursing and Midwifery Courses leading to Registration, Enrolment, Endorsement and Authorisation in Australia*. Following completion of this work, it was agreed that the next stage of this project (Phase 3) should be to develop standards and criteria for the national Accreditation Framework. To undertake this work, a consultant will be appointed to review existing standards used by the state and territory nursing and midwifery regulatory authorities, and to develop new standards which reflect existing jurisdictional legislation, but which will also enable the implementation of a national accreditation process.

This phase of the project commenced in August 2007. A consultant has been appointed, and it is anticipated that Phase 3 will be completed by May 2008.

Development of a National Framework for the Demonstration of Continuing Competence for Nurses and Midwives

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) has recently commenced a project to develop a national framework for the demonstration of continuing competence for nurses and midwives. There have been several drivers for this work to be undertaken, including the introduction of continuing competence assessment processes in several states and territories over the last five years. The ANMC has a mandate to lead a national approach with state and territory nursing and midwifery regulatory authorities (NMRAs) in evolving national standards for the regulation of the nursing and midwifery professions that are flexible, effective and responsive to the health care requirements of the Australian population. The introduction of a national framework for the demonstration of continuing competence therefore provides another component of the suite of standards and frameworks developed by the ANMC.

The outcomes of this project will be:

- Production of a literature review of national and international competence assessment processes
- A national continuing competence framework for the nursing and midwifery professions
- A national implementation plan
- An evaluation strategy

Process for the development of the framework:

A consultant, Ms Julia Monaghan was appointed in August 2007 to undertake the development of the framework. Following completion of an extensive literature review, an initial draft framework will be developed. This draft will be used for the first round of consultation, which will include a series of forums to be held in all capital cities during October and November 2007. The forums will be free to participants. Following the completion of the consultation forums, a revised draft will be developed incorporating the feedback received. Electronic feedback to each of the draft frameworks is welcomed from all members of the professions. Full details of the forums and how to provide feedback is available on the ANMC website.

It is anticipated that the final version of the framework will be completed by May 2008. Information about the progress of the project will be provided on the ANMC website and through electronic information bulletins which will be circulated to key stakeholders.

International Project

The ANMC has recently commenced a project to develop national standards for the assessment of internationally qualified nurses and midwives for registration and migration.

The aim of this project is to research and formulate national standards for the assessment of overseas-qualified nurses and midwives who apply for registration in, and migration to, Australia, irrespective of their country of origin. Consultants have been appointed to undertake this work, which is anticipated to be completed by mid 2008 to coincide with the introduction of national registration for health professionals.

Position Statements and Guidelines

The following position statements have recently been approved/amended by Council, and can be viewed on the ANMC website.

- Ethical Recruitment of Internationally Qualified Registered Nurses and Midwives
- Orientation of Internationally Qualified Nurses and Midwives to the Australian Healthcare Context
- ANMC Guidelines for Nurses and Midwives on Telehealth Practice (formerly, Guidelines on Telenursing)



Executive report for the NNO 19 October 2007

- The web site continues to be developed and has required a lot of input from members. See www.ashna.org.au for further information
- The executive have been working on issues relating to governance and associate membership.
- ashna inc still has a steady membership of around 150 australasia wide including a member in the uk
- Our list server has generated debate around the issue of hepatitis b vaccines and reminder systems and has been a great way to disseminate information and network amongst our colleagues.
- the annual educational award sponsored by glaxo smith kline saw 4 members receive funds towards conference attendance and tertiary studies.
- The australasian sexual health conference is to be held on the gold coast from 8th to 10th october 2007. This conference attracts doctors, nurses, counsellors and educators working in the field of sexual and reproductive health. This year's program includes more nursing based papers which is great to see. Ashna has also lobbied for a nursing representative on the organising committee as there hasn't been in the past.
- Our competency standards have been sent to the anf as requested.
- Belinda davis will be participating in the governance training towards the end of the year.
- our agm is scheduled for 2nd november in sydney.



CNCAN Report for NNO Meeting, 19th October 2007

- The CNCAN held a very successful and well attended event, 'The How-To for CNC's' on the 29/6/07. The day was opened by the NSW Chief Nurse, Ms Debra Thoms, and was facilitated by Geraldine Burton. Feedback from the day was extremely positive and we plan to build on the momentum with another event in 2008.
- Our focus this year has been on increasing membership and the above event along with a membership recruitment letter has seen our membership numbers increase dramatically, which has been very encouraging.
- We will be holding our AGM and a networking event with Mary Chiarella, as our guest speaker, on 9/11/07 at the College of Nursing, Burwood, N.S.W. We will advise you of our new executive after this meeting.